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30 OCT 2000

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Your Reference: DY2803  
Application No: GB 0019434.0

26 October 2000

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)**

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

**Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **2 January 2002**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

**Amendment/withdrawal**

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

Simon Colcombe  
Examiner

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†Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



Application No: GB 0019434.0  
Claims searched: All

Examiner: Simon Colcombe  
Date of search: 25 October 2000

## Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:	
UK Cl (Ed.R):	G1N (NCDC, NCDG, NCDJ)
Int Cl (Ed.7):	G01M, G01N
Other:	Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y	GB 2161936 A (SEC. STATE for DEFENCE) Whole document.	11, 15-22
X, Y	GB 2060179 A (SCHENCK) Whole document.	X:1-10, 12-14 Y:11, 15-22
Y	EP 0175257 A2 (INTERATOM) Whole document.	11, 15-22
Y	EP 0094486 A1 (IBM) Whole document.	11, 15-22
Y	US 5758970 (AUBERT) Whole document.	11, 15-22
X, Y	FR 2680003 A (BATHIAS) Abstract.	X:1-10, 12-14 Y:11, 15-22

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.